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USIB-D-16.2/13
22 May 1959

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study of NIE 68-57

Probable Developments in Laos Over the Next Few Months

Published 20 August 1957

The attached validity study of NIE 68-57 was noted by the
Intelligence Board on 19 May 1959 (USIB-M-39, item 14c).



Executive Secretary

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Attachment

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1. NIE 68-57 was addressed primarily to the prospects for a negotiated settlement between the Lao Government and the Communist Pathet Lao to end the civil war, reintegrate the two northern Lao provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly, and reach a political settlement with the Pathet Lao.
2. The estimate pointed out the increasing pressure in Laos for a negotiated settlement. It stated that a settlement probably would not be reached "within the next few months" but that over "the longer run, unless the governing elite can be convinced of the dangers implicit in Pathet Lao demands, pressures for integration probably will become so great that no government will be able to resist, and the RLG will accept a settlement without adequate safeguards."
3. The political settlement was reached in November 1957, within three months of the publication of NIE 68-57. The estimate now appears to have been overly pessimistic, at least in the short run, in its implications that the Lao Government would be unable to cope with the Pathet Lao as a legal political party.

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